

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 186435

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOL RPT RABAT 4440 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS
NOUAKCHOTT PARIS JIDDA JUL 22, 1978

QUOTE: S E C R E T RABAT 4440

EXDIS

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PEPR AG MO MR SS

SUBJECT: GUEDIRA'S COMMENTS ON MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA

1. IN TWO SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS DURING SAUNDERS VISIT
ROYAL COUNSELOR REDA GUEDIRA PROVIDED FOLLOWING INFORMATION
ON MOROCCAN, ALGERIAN, MAURITANIAN RELATIONS.

2. IN DESCRIBING MOROCCAN RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW MAURITANIAN
GOVERNMENT, GUEDIRA TOLD HOW HE HAD FLOWN TO NOUAKCHOTT ON
THE FIRST DAY AFTER THE NEW GOVERNMENT TOOK OVER. HE HAD
BEEN WITH SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD AT LUNCH WITH KING HASSAN
BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. FAHD TOLD GUEDIRA HE COULD TELL NEW
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MAURITANIAN GOVERNMENT THAT SAUDI ARABIA WOULD CONTINUE TO
PROVIDE FINANCIAL SUPPORT BUT THAT THIS SUPPORT WOULD BE
PROVIDED THROUGH MOROCCO AND THAT, IF MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN
RELATIONSHIP DETERIORATED, SAUDI AID WOULD NOT CONTINUE.
GUEDIRA SAID THAT, IN HIS CONTACTS WITH NEW GOVERNMENT,
MAURITANIZANS HAVE PROMISED TO COORDINATE THEIR POLICY
WITH MOROCCO. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE

OF THE SAHARAN DISPUTE, GUEDIRA FEEL BACK ON
THE FORMULATION THAT HE "COULD NOT EXCLUDE" NEW
EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A PEACE SETTLEMENT OR MAURITANIA
REDUCING ITS WAR EFFORT.

3. WHEN TOLD THAT U.S. HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT ALGERIA
WOULD ACCEPT SOUTHWARD ADJUSTMENT OF THE MOROCCAN-
SAHARAN BORDER, GUEDIRA ACKNOWLEDGED THIS WAS THE CASE,
STATING THAT MOROCCAN SECTOR OF THE SAHARA WOULD NOT
BE THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN WORKING OUT AN ALGERIAN-
MOROCCAN AGREEMENT. RATHER IT WAS THE MAURITANIAN
SECTOR WHERE THE ALGERIANS WERE ADAMAPT. ANDERSON
UNQUOTE VANCE

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